



OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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Linda McCulloch
Superintendent

February 17, 2006

To: Interested Persons

From: Robert Runkel, Administrator
Division of Special Education

Re: Application for Part B Funds Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, As Amended in 2004 (IDEA, PL 108-446)

Enclosed is a copy of the state's application for federal fiscal year (FFY) 2006 grant funds under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, As Amended in 2004 (IDEA, PL 108-446).

In order for Montana to receive federal funds under IDEA, it must submit an annual application to the U.S. Department of Education. The enclosed application consists of four sections:

- Section I: Submission Statement for Part B in IDEA
- Section II: Assurances and Certifications
- Section III: Description of Use of Funds Under Part B of IDEA
- Section IV: State Administration

In Section II: Assurances and Certifications, the Office of Public Instruction has identified if its current policies, rules and statutes are consistent with the requirements in the IDEA, PL 108-446. If it has been determined that the state cannot provide an assurance that its policies and/or rules are consistent with the requirements under IDEA, PL 108-446, for the specific assurance statement, the state has stated that it will revise its policies and rules by June 30, 2007, to ensure consistency with PL 108-466.

Proposed changes to state administrative rules and policies will be developed through broad stakeholder involvement following publication of the final regulations under IDEA, PL 108-446, and will be made available to the public in accord with public participation requirements prior to their adoption.

Section IV State Administration: In this section the state is required to identify any state rule, regulation or policy that is state imposed (not required by IDEA or federal regulations) and results in additional requirements imposed on LEAs.

"It is the mission of the Office of Public Instruction to improve teaching and learning through communication, collaboration, advocacy, and accountability to those we serve."

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Written comments regarding this application can be sent to the Office of Public Instruction, Division of Special Education, PO Box 202501, Helena, Montana 59620-2501, and must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on April 14, 2006.

Copies of this memorandum and the application are available for review on the Office of Public Instruction Web site at www.opi.mt.gov (look under News Headlines) or by calling the Division of Special Education at (406)444-4428.

Enclosure